



MICHIGAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
P.O. Box 30014
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7514

Minutes of the House Standing Committee
on
Military and Veteran Affairs

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 12:00 Noon Room 327 House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs was called to order by Representative Jason Wentworth, Chair.

The Clerk called the roll; members present were **Representatives Wentworth, Graves, Hughes, Barrett, Glenn, Albert, Hoitenga, Johnson, Sabo, Brinks, Byrd and Jones. (12/13)**

Member absent and excused was **Representative Elder. (1/13)**

The Clerk announced that a quorum was present.

The Chair laid before the committee the minutes of February 27, 2018, as printed.

Representative Albert moved to adopt the minutes of February 27, 2018, as printed.

There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the minutes were adopted as printed.

The Chair laid before the committee House Concurrent Resolution 19.

HCR 19 (Noble) A concurrent resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States to award the posthumous Medal of Honor to Lieutenant-Colonel Albert M. Edwards for his actions during the Civil War.

Representative Noble, the concurrent resolution sponsor, explained the resolution and introduced his constituents, Gary Rembisz and Keith Edwards, who testified in support of the resolution. Questions followed.

Lino B. Pretto, Michigan Department Legislative Officer for the Military Order of the Purple Heart, submitted a testimony card in support of House Concurrent Resolution 19, did not wish to testify.

Representative Brinks moved to report House Concurrent Resolution 19 with the recommendation that the concurrent resolution be adopted.

The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Representatives Wentworth, Hughes, Graves, Barrett, Glenn, Albert, Hoitenga, Johnson, Sabo, Brinks, Byrd and Jones, (12/13)

Nays: None. (0/13)

House Concurrent Resolution 19 was referred to the House floor.

The Chair laid before the committee House Bill 5536.

HB 5536 (Wentworth) Veterans; other; county veteran service fund; create, and provide for funding and expenditures.

Mark A. Sutton, Public Relations Director for the American Legion Department of Michigan, and Gary Easterling, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director for the American Legion Department of Michigan, testified and submitted testimony cards stating their organization is neutral on the bill. Questions followed.

The following individuals submitted a testimony card stating their organization is neutral on the bill:

Lino B. Pretto, Michigan Department Legislative Officer for the Military Order of the Purple Heart;

Marilyn Britten, Chairman of the Legislative Committee for the American Legion Department of Michigan; and

LaDonna Austhof-Siebelink, representing the American Legion Department of Michigan.

Representative Hughes offered and moved to adopt the following amendment to House Bill 5536:

1. Amend page 2, line 14, after "**OPERATIONS.**" by inserting "**THE MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY SHALL NOT EXPEND MONEY FROM THE FUND TO PAY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE GRANT PROGRAM.**".

The motion did not prevail by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Representatives Hughes and Jones, (2/13)

Nays: Representatives Wentworth, Graves, Barrett, Glenn, Albert, Hoitenga, Johnson, Sabo, Brinks, and Byrd. (10/13)

The amendment was not adopted.

On Tuesday, February 27, 2018, the committee adopted another amendment to the bill.

Representative Graves moved to report House Bill 5536 with the recommendation that the amendment be adopted and that the bill then pass.

The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Representatives Wentworth, Graves, Hughes, Barrett, Glenn, Albert, Hoitenga, Sabo, Brinks, Byrd and Jones, (11/13)

Nays: Representative Johnson. (1/13)

The bill and the amendment were referred to the order of Second Reading of Bills.

Representative Sabo moved to excuse Representative Elder from today's committee meeting. There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the member was excused.

There being no other business before the committee; **Representative Barrett moved to adjourn the meeting.**

The motion prevailed, the time being 12:43 p.m.

The Chair declared the Committee adjourned.

Jason Wentworth, Chair

House Standing Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs

Joy Brewer, Committee Clerk

Date approved by the committee